



Medical Council

Policy Document on the Use of Medical Ionising Radiation

1. The Medical Council was given statutory duties and responsibility with regard to the use of Ionising Radiation for Medical purposes under Statutory Instrument S.I. 478 of 2002, European Communities (Medical Ionising Radiation Protection) Regulations 2002.
2. The Medical Ionising Radiation Committee (MIRC), previously known as the Permanent Advisory Committee, was established by the third Medical Council under section 13 of the Medical Practitioners Act, 1978 (MPA) as a result of the introduction of the European Communities (Medical Ionising Radiation) Regulations 1988 and S.I. No 189 of 1988. Both S.I. No 189 of 1988 and S.I. No 250 of 1998, relating to MIR, were revoked with the introduction of S.I. No 478 of 2002. This relevant statutory instrument is now the Committee's main point of reference.
3. The Council will promote compliance with SI 478 of 2002 and the maintenance of standards in individual practice. The MIRC provides expert advice to the Council in this regard. The expert advice is mainly provided by its external members, who are nominated by a number of relevant bodies with an interest in MIR, to represent their views/expertise.
4. The Medical Ionising Radiation Committee of the Medical Council is comprised of a number of Council members and/or members nominated by Council, together with representation from the Faculty of Radiologists, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland, and others including the Health and Safety Authority, the Association of Physical Scientists in Medicine and the Irish Institute of Radiographers.

This Committee is advisory to the Medical Council for this Policy on Medical Ionising Radiation.

5. A Practitioner as defined in these regulations shall be the person who can determine that medical exposure to radiation is medically justified and that the procedures are such that the dose of ionising radiation to the patient is as low as reasonably achievable in order to achieve the required effect. A Practitioner under these regulations shall be:
 - a. A person who is a registered medical practitioner with Qualifications as presently specified by Comhairle Na nOspideal for Consultant appointments in the Specialties of Radiology and Radiation Oncology and whose name is so entered on the Council's Register of Medical Specialists.
 - b. A person who is a registered dental practitioner who possesses such training as is deemed necessary by the Dental council to allow them to take responsibility for an individual medical exposure.
6. A Radiologist or Radiation Oncologist undergoing training may make a medical exposure under the guidance of a practitioner as defined in (a) above.
7. The Medical Council accepts that the practical aspects for any medical radiological procedure or part thereof may be delegated by the Practitioner to one or more individuals entitled to act in this respect in a recognised field of medical specialisation provided that individual has successfully completed such a course or courses in radiation safety as the Medical or Dental Councils may specify. Such an individual performing a medical radiological procedure shall ensure that a Radiographer is in attendance at all times during the procedure.
8. A Prescriber may request a medical ionising radiation exposure and shall indicate in writing his/her reason for requesting the particular exposure. A Prescriber shall be:
 - a. A person who is a registered medical practitioner under section 26 of the Medical Practitioners Act 1978 or

- b. A person who is a registered dental practitioner under section 26 of the Dentists Act 1985
- 9. In all cases the medical exposure shall show a sufficient net benefit compared with any detriment that exposure might cause. The radiation dose shall be as low as is reasonably achievable for the aims of the study being undertaken.

THIS DOCUMENT WAS ADOPTED BY COUNCIL ON 14 FEBRUARY 2005